



## **Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture**

Date: Thursday, April 7, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30p

Location: Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81899927176?pwd=ZDZJTzloZ1ZxREUvOG51Sm9OMVV1QT09>

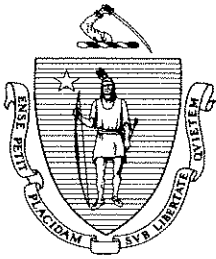
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[Supplemental Written Program Updates](#)

### **Agenda**

- |    |  |             |
|----|--|-------------|
| 1. | For Approval: <a href="#">March minutes</a>                                  | 7:00p-7:05p |
| 2. | Discussion: Article 42 - Open Space Usage<br>Guest: James Fleming            | 7:05p-7:15p |
| 3. | Updates: Co-Chairs   | 7:15-7:30p  |
| 4. | Updates: Community Engagement  | 7:30-7:45p  |
| 5. | Discussion: June 8 Chamber and June 18 Porchfest/GB<br>Events and Reopenings | 7:45-8:05p  |
| 6. | Updates: Fundraising   | 8:05-8:15p  |
| 7. | New Business   | 8:15-8:30p  |

**Next meeting will be Thursday, May 5 from 7:00-8:30p**



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS**  
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**CHARLES D. BAKER**  
GOVERNOR

**KARYN E. POLITO**  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

**ORDER SUSPENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS  
OF THE OPEN MEETING LAW, G. L. c. 30A, § 20**

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, I, Charles D. Baker, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, acting pursuant to the powers provided by Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 and Section 2A of Chapter 17 of the General Laws, declared that there now exists in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts a state of emergency due to the outbreak of the 2019 novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19"); and

**WHEREAS**, many important functions of State and Local Government are executed by "public bodies," as that term is defined in G. L. c. 30A, § 18, in meetings that are open to the public, consistent with the requirements of law and sound public policy and in order to ensure active public engagement with, contribution to, and oversight of the functions of government; and

**WHEREAS**, both the Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ("CDC") and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health ("DPH") have advised residents to take extra measures to put distance between themselves and other people to further reduce the risk of being exposed to COVID-19. Additionally, the CDC and DPH have advised high-risk individuals, including people over the age of 60, anyone with underlying health conditions or a weakened immune system, and pregnant women, to avoid large gatherings.

**WHEREAS**, sections 7, 8, and 8A of Chapter 639 of the Acts of 1950 authorize the Governor, during the effective period of a declared emergency, to exercise authority over public assemblages as necessary to protect the health and safety of persons; and

**WHEREAS**, low-cost telephone, social media, and other internet-based technologies are currently available that will permit the convening of a public body through virtual means and allow real-time public access to the activities of the public body; and

**WHEREAS** section 20 of chapter 30A and implementing regulations issued by the Attorney General currently authorize remote participation by members of a public body, subject to certain limitations;

**NOW THEREFORE**, I hereby order the following:

(1) A public body, as defined in section 18 of chapter 30A of the General Laws, is hereby relieved from the requirement of section 20 of chapter 30A that it conduct its meetings in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body for interested members of the public through adequate, alternative means.

Adequate, alternative means of public access shall mean measures that provide transparency and permit timely and effective public access to the deliberations of the public body. Such means may include, without limitation, providing public access through telephone, internet, or satellite enabled audio or video conferencing or any other technology that enables the public to clearly follow the proceedings of the public body while those activities are occurring. Where allowance for active, real-time participation by members of the public is a specific requirement of a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, pursuant to which the proceeding is conducted, any alternative means of public access must provide for such participation.

A municipal public body that for reasons of economic hardship and despite best efforts is unable to provide alternative means of public access that will enable the public to follow the proceedings of the municipal public body as those activities are occurring in real time may instead post on its municipal website a full and complete transcript, recording, or other comprehensive record of the proceedings as soon as practicable upon conclusion of the proceedings. This paragraph shall not apply to proceedings that are conducted pursuant to a general or special law or regulation, or a local ordinance or by-law, that requires allowance for active participation by members of the public.

A public body must offer its selected alternative means of access to its proceedings without subscription, toll, or similar charge to the public.

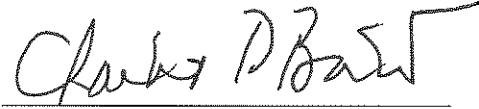
(2) Public bodies are hereby authorized to allow remote participation by all members in any meeting of the public body. The requirement that a quorum of the body and the chair be physically present at a specified meeting location, as provided in G. L. c. 30A, § 20(d) and in 940 CMR 29.10(4)(b), is hereby suspended.

(3) A public body that elects to conduct its proceedings under the relief provided in sections (1) or (2) above shall ensure that any party entitled or required to appear before it shall be able to do so through remote means, as if the party were a member of the public body and participating remotely as provided in section (2).

(4) All other provisions of sections 18 to 25 of chapter 30A and the Attorney General's implementing regulations shall otherwise remain unchanged and fully applicable to the activities of public bodies.

This Order is effective immediately and shall remain in effect until rescinded or until the State of Emergency is terminated, whichever happens first.

Given in Boston at 6:40 PM this 12th day of  
March, two thousand and twenty.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Baker". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Charles" is written with a large, prominent "C". The last name "Baker" is written with a large, prominent "B". The signature is written above a horizontal line.

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



## **Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture**

Date: March 3, 2022

Time: 7:00-8:30 PM

Location: Zoom

**Attending:** Stewart Ikeda, Steve Poltorzycki, Lidia Kenig-Scher, Cristin Canterbury Bagnall, Christine Noah, Nick Castellano, Tom Formicola, Stephanie Marlin-Curiel

**Absent:** Tom Davison, Andrea Nicolay, Sarah Morgan-Wu, Beth Locke

**Guests:** Terry Holt, Allison Holt, Jenny Raitt, Cecily Miller

The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

### **1) ROLL CALL AND RULES OF REMOTE MEETINGS CONDUCTED DURING COVID-19**

### **2) APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY MINUTES**

- The minutes were approved unanimously by all who attended the last meeting.

### **3) UPDATES ON PLANNING & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

- The commission welcomed Jenny Raitt, who is filling in for Ali Carter until she returns from maternity leave.
- Arlington no longer has a mask mandate. Events can be planned.
- The ARPA small business program was able to provide funding to  $\frac{2}{3}$  of applicants. There will be a special carve out for arts and culture in the next round.
- Jenny will accompany Steve, Stewart, and Cristin to the Finance Committee meeting on March 16 to discuss the budget for FY23. They will get an agenda a few days before.
- Looking through the warrant for this year's Town Meeting, nothing sticks out in terms of arts and culture. One resolution at the end of the warrant is to increase diversity in town appointments. If passed, appointing authorities must prioritize diversifying town boards and committees with applicants from underrepresented groups (racial, economic, etc.). To ensure compliance, there would likely be procedures or recommendations created for future searches. The petitioners (Elizabeth Dray and ten registered voters) will probably outline their vision for this when they present the article. ACAC has already been focused on diversifying the commission on subcommittees, so this article would just be a check on that.
- Rachel Oliveri and Cecily approached Del's Lemonade about painting on the store panels for Eco Week. The landlord said no. Jenny will see if she knows anyone connected to the owner.

#### **4) REMOTE VS. IN-PERSON MEETINGS**

- ACAC can technically meet in person now, but remote meeting accommodation has been extended through June. Unless the state revises its open meeting law, remote meetings will not be allowed after that. There is not yet great hybrid capability at Town Hall. The consensus from the group was to continue remote meetings through June. Sarah Morgan-Wu has offered to host ACAC when we return to in-person. ACA is also a location option.

#### **5) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE**

- Options for the parklets this year remain pretty open ended in terms of what ACAC wants to do and when. Last year they only stayed up a couple of months, but this year they will go up in April. There can't be a mural at the Medford St parklet this year because the building will be under construction, but there could be other activities or installations. Jenny noted they have only approved 3 applications so far for restaurants/businesses. Blue Ribbon doesn't want a parklet back. Clay Dreams might have a parklet. They are not doing Broadway Plaza this year, but it will potentially move back to Alton St. ACAC can program the Medford St parklet with live performances like last year. There is some noise from buses but as long as there is sensitivity to programming times, it should be fine. Artists and audiences liked that space a lot.
- The Black History Month banners were up on Mass Ave in February.
- At the Community Engagement meeting on Monday, there were 10 new people in attendance from the volunteer event. It is an interesting transition moment as the committee finds ways to balance work with engaging new people
- Chanel Therwil is still taking a personal break, so there are no updated activities for her project yet.
- The Spring Festival in the Heights is May 21. It would be great to have the commission mobilized around that event like it was around the Haiku event.
- Stewart asked for feedback on the Cultural District audio tour. The navigation is very straightforward, the narration is strong, and the sound quality is good. The information is engaging. It stands alone even without visiting all the spaces. One note was that the episodes on the podcast didn't appear in numerical order. They were easy to download. Some heard commercials but some did not. If there is a need for a wider pool of reviewers, it can be shared with the folks who came to the volunteer meeting. The Town website has a "new arrivals" section, and it was suggested this tour should be a part of that. Jenny could help promote. There's also a new business page done in collaboration with the Chamber.

#### **6) ARTS ARLINGTON WEBSITE DISCUSSION**

- Terry and Stewart have made updates to the website, but they have approached some limitations on continued customization. This website was designed and developed a few years ago and technology has changed. It is a complicated site to update, and the goal is to make it easier for folks to be able to jump in.
- Terry suggested ACAC move away from GoDaddy. There are also some bigger picture questions to answer and figure out what ACAC wants from the website. Terry is an expert on the site but she is currently the only one who really can deal with it, which is not sustainable.
- Terry also suggested getting a nice new clean theme. There are some free ones and cheap ones that can be customized, and once they are applied, the content integrates into the website like a template. Colors, images, logos, etc. would also be customizable. It would just be different on the backend. Part of the problem with the current theme is that it is over-engineered so there are a lot of add-ins. The question is what people will need to be able to do (post photo galleries, videos, etc.). Things like style guides, directions, etc. can be developed to help keep things consistent.
- Every committee and every task force needs to look through the needs assessment and think long-term. The importance of an archiving function was emphasized.

- The first step is to find a new place to host the site and Terry wants the approval of the commission to move forward on that. Everyone was in favor.
- The Marketing Committee can make the decision on this and there is a budget for it. There will need to be a proposal for specific changes with a budget, and that can be discussed.

#### **7) NEW BUSINESS**

- The Chamber is organizing a summer concert series - more information to come.
- ACAC is looking for a new commissioner, so please keep an ear out for potential candidates. Jenny will get it up on the town website.
- Review your contact info and committee participation on [the ACAC roster](#).
- Thanks to Jenny who engaged in a long and thoughtful meeting with the Climate Futures team to review proposed locations.

The meeting ended at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted by Christine Noah.

Next meeting: April 7, 7pm



# Arlington Commission for Arts & Culture Updates

## April 2022

For the ACAC meeting held online this month, we again anticipate focusing on a shortlist of items in need of voting, or priority discussion of future actions. In keeping with Open Meetings, these notes, [April agenda](#), and “Executive Order on Remote Participation” will be published publicly at least 48-hours before the meeting. We will circulate a Registration Process for the Meeting.

Please feel free to contact the chairs with any clarification or correction, to add any new business, and ESPECIALLY NOTE if any committee item entails a significant budget request, procedural change, or other action that requires a vote.

We acknowledge that the town of Arlington is located on the ancestral lands of the Massachusetts Tribe, the tribe of Indigenous peoples from whom the Colony, Province, and Commonwealth have taken their names. We pay our respects to the ancestral bloodline of the Massachusetts Tribe and their descendants who still inhabit historic Massachusetts territories today.

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### PRELIMINARY TO MEETING

Review this document and submit comments, corrections, new business to the [co-chairs](#).

Review [last month's Meeting's minutes](#) and be prepared to vote on modification or approval.

All Commissioners review and understand Town's "[Remote Participation Meeting Checklist](#)" and guidelines for Zoom meetings, collected in a Google Drive folder, [ACAC Remote Open Meetings Notes and Guidelines](#).

### RESOURCES

[ACAC Bylaws](#) | [ACAC on Town Website](#) | [ACAC Operations Plan](#) | [Strategic Plan](#) | [ACAC 2021 Annual Report](#) | August 2021 Retreat [Whiteboard](#)

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# COMMITTEE, PROJECT, AND TASK FORCE UPDATES

**FY22 Commission Meetings Schedule:** First Thursdays at 7PM unless quorum can't be attained. The next meeting is scheduled for **MAY 5 at 7PM**.

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**Full Commission:** The co-chairs and treasurer are pleased to report that the [Finance Committee unanimously approved](#) our \$35,000 FY23 budget request. Steven Poltorczyk and Cristin Canterbury-Bagnall provided a well-organized presentation. ACAC was grateful to add to last year's [letters of support strong new testimonials](#) from Town Manager Adam Chapdelaine, Select Board Members Diggins and Helmuth, DEI Director Harvey, Arts Boston Executive Director Catherine Peterson, RepHairations businessowner Yvonne Adams, AHS Climate Futures intern Greta Mastro, Poet Laureate Steven Ratiner, ACMi Communications Manager James Milan, and ATED Chair Angela Olszewski – thanks to all! The co-chairs have [submitted an announcement](#) for a Commissioner-level vacancy as well as specific subcommittee and working group roles in need of support. Congratulations to commissioner **Christine Noah** who successfully prevailed in a contested election to represent Precinct 6 in Town Meeting!

**Community Engagement:** Former Arlington Artist-in-Residence **Michelle Lougee** will return for deinstallation of the popular *Persistence* project from the Minuteman Bikeway, followed by an artists discussion on environmental issues along with filmmaker **Robin Frohardt** at a hybrid Regent Theatre/online May 10 screening of *Plastic Bag Store: The Film*. A Call for Artists has been issued to resume recruitment for the Live Arts busking series in town this summer, and planning is underway for the return of the **Garage Band** signature Live Arts event as the afterparty to June 18 **ACA Porchfest**. CE is partnering with the Chamber and neighborhood groups to present Spring Window Painting on May 7. Discussions are underway to reconceptualize Plein Aire as a rotating event, kicking off in East Arlington to help reactivate arts in the neighborhood in the absence of a Fox Festival/Feast of the East this year. The **2022 AHS Youth Banners** are now on display – congratulations to all the talented students who participated, and to **Sarah Kelly Gurney** who coordinated the project this year!

**Fundraising:** The Fundraising Committee was invigorated by new members bringing new expertise for its most recent meeting to discuss a spring campaign, future options for Chairful, and other future fundraising and sponsor engagement opportunities. ACAC will partner with the Chamber of Commerce to present an event on June 8 at the Regent Theatre. The committee is brainstorming possible sponsors to support the Heights Spring Festival and the Cultural District Audio Tour.

**Arlington Cultural District:** ACAC Commissioners provided good feedback on the new **ACD Self-Guided Audio Tour** on [Soundcloud](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and an [interactive Google Map](#).

Planning is underway to begin promoting the tour through events that may include the Chamber event, Porchfest, a Chairful type event, QR code signage, and other means.

**VisitArlington:** **Beth Locke** continues to invite distribution and editorial ideas, events to post on the blog, and other assistance for *Visit Arlington Magazine & Community Guide 2021/2022* and [visitarlington.org](http://visitarlington.org). Locke is seeking support to create a new edition for next year. The Chamber is organizing a Wednesday night summer concert series in Whittemore Park in collaboration with ACAC.

**ArtLinks:** **Charles-Smith Métellus** is the featured artist. ArtLinks April 6 event was Photography: Observation Through the Eye of a Camera Lens with Rick Olick and Adine Storer. Next Event: Wednesday May 4, 7:00-8:30 PM ~ When Art Strikes Controversy: Should your ethnicity affect the art you create.

**Poet Laureate:** At the start of Poetry Month, let's tackle a moment to admire the feat of Poet Laureate **Steven Ratiner**, who has published over 100 Red Letter Poems since the start of the pandemic, gaining followers from far and wide!

**Grants Committee:** The ACAC co-chairs joined the Grants Committee for a warm and clarifying discussion of the two entities, historically, and opportunities to work in a closer, more efficient and integrated way in the future. Specifically discussed were opportunities for GC members to also participate other ACAC committees and taskforces best suited to supporting shared GC interests such as marketing, DEIA, artist workspaces, fundraising, and others.

**Marketing:** Last month, the ArtsArlington newsletter inaugurated a new feature, sharing brief profiles of Commissioners and Committee members, to better allow readers to know the commission and consider volunteering. All commissioners are invited to share with **Terese Holt** a paragraph bio about their background and a statement about their experience working with ACAC. **Terese Holt** and **Allison Holt** worked quickly and effectively to restore the ArtsArlington website after a hack that impacted its search results on Google led to searchers receiving spam links. We are grateful for their dedicated action in the face of a challenging web attack. They continue to back up the website and research options for migrating the website to a new more stable environment.